WDS Data Sharing Principles

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Purpose

The International Council for Science – World Data System (ICSU-WDS) aims to promote universal and equitable access to quality-assured scientific data, data services, products and information, with a view towards long term data stewardship. Furthermore, ICSU-WDS is committed to fostering compliance to agreed-upon data standards and conventions, and providing mechanisms to facilitate and improve access to data and data products. As the leading international, multidisciplinary organization in the provision of trusted data services, ICSU-WDS has adopted Data Sharing Principles to advance its goals.

The Principles express core ethical commitments that are operationalized in WDS Certification. For Regular and Network Members, it is anticipated that existing organizational policies align with these Principles; Partner and Associate Members are not subject to certification and therefore not expected to adopt them, but encouraged to do so. The Principles embody the spirit of open science meant to unite diverse communities of data producers and data users, and thus could be adopted by anyone pursuing science for the public good.

The ICSU-WDS data sharing principles are in-line with the data policies of national and international initiatives, including those enunciated jointly by ICSU, IAP, ISSC, TWAS as well as those of the Group on Earth Observations, and the UK Open Research Data Forum.

Principles

- Data, metadata, products and information will be fully and openly shared for science, in accordance with applicable jurisdictional laws, policies, and international standards of ethical research conduct.
- All data, metadata, products and information will be made available for use with minimum time delay and free of charge, or for no more than the cost of dissemination, which may be waived for low income countries (LICs) to support equity in access.
- All who produce, share, and use data and metadata are stewards of those data, and have responsibility for ensuring that the authenticity, quality, and integrity of the data is preserved, and respect for the data source is maintained.
- Sensitive data that is not amenable for open sharing should be considered for use on a limited or restricted basis, subject to appropriate justification and protocols.